

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 11316 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED
4 SEPT 1974:

QTE

UNCLAS LONDON 11316

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJ: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING
AND 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF: (A) CARACAS 8544; (B) STATE 193106

1. WE ASSUME THAT (A) US LOS DELEGATION HAS GOOD IDEA
OF UK VIEWS ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND (B) THAT UK OFFICIALS
WELL AWARE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION AND ITS CONTENT.

2. OUR ASSESSMENT OF POSSIBLE UK REACTION TO FISHERIES
BILL BASED ON FACT THAT UK FISHING INDUSTRY GROUPS SINCE
EARLY 1974 HAVE BEEN PUTTING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT
PRINCIPLE OF 200 MILES FISHERIES ZONE AROUND UK AS POSITION OF
UK LOS DELEGATION. SHOULD US TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION ON THIS,
PARTICULARLY IF THIS LEADS TO SIMILAR ACTION BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS,
IT MIGHT BE EXPECTED THAT PRESSURE ON UK BY FISHERIES INTERESTS
TO FOLLOW WITH SIMILAR UNILATERAL MEASURES WOULD INCREASE.

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3. IN RESPECT TO DEEP SEABED MINING LEGISLATION, WE NOT AWARE OF ANY TENDENCY IN UK GOVERNMENT TO ACT UNILATERALLY ON THIS ISSUE AND DOUBT THAT UNILATERAL US ACTION WOULD PRODUCE ANY EARLY MOVEMENT IN THIS DIRECTION. UK UNDER-SEA MINING INTERESTS AND CAPABILITY APPEAR TO US TO BE FULLY OCCUPIED WITH NORTH SEA OIL RECOVERY AT THIS TIME AND FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME.

4. IN LOS CONTEXT, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT SHOULD UK BE MOVED TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION ON EXTENDING FISHERIES AREA OR, MORE UNLIKELY, ANY ACTION ON DEEP SEABED MINING, IN KEEPING WITH LONG UK INTERESTS AS MAJOR MARITIME STATE ACTIONS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT INCLUDE RESTRICTIONS TO NAVIGATION OR FREE PASSAGE THROUGH 200 MILE ZONE. SOHM UNQTE KISSINGER

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